

Serial No. 09/414,104
Amendment dated March 20, 2006
Reply to Final Office Action of December 22, 2005

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Docket No. 1232-4578

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-45 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 23, 38 and 40 are independent. By this Amendment, independent claims 1, 23, 38 and 40 are amended. No new matter has been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In paragraph two (2) of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 6, 8-24 and 28-39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,115,064 to Mogi ("Mogi") in view of JP 10-260440 to Kusuda Hiroyuki ("Hiroyuki").

It appears that the Examiner equates the lens microcomputer 115 to the second system controller of the present invention, and cites portions of Mogi (i.e., Fig. 5, col. 5, line 66-col. 6, line 6, col. 3, lines 5-14 and col. 8, lines 7-10).

Independent claims 1, 23 and 38 have been amended for further clarification. In particular, amended claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "a first system controller configured to control the electronic device with an operating system; and a second system controller, which, in response to a turn-on operation of a power source, extends a lens barrel having a lens from a collapsed position, starts supplying power to said first system controller, and operates independently of said first system controller." Amended claim 1 further recites that the second system controller continues extending the lens barrel while the first system controller launches the operating system in response to a start of the power source. Other amended claim 23 and 38 recite similar features to amended claim 1 as indicated herein.

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Amended claim 1 specifies that the second system controller controls to start supplying power to the first system controller that controls the electronic device with an operating system. Amended claim 1 further clarifies that the extending of the lens barrel is performed while the first system controller launches the operation system. In this manner, it is possible to shorten a time required to prepare the electronic device after the power source is turned on. Supports for the amendments may be found, for example, at step S104 in Fig. 2 and steps S201 and S202 in Fig. 3, and page 16, lines 7-10 and page 18, line 24 to page 19, line 1, of the original specification.

In contrast, Mogi is directed to preventing a degraded image from being outputted during initialization of a lens unit. The lens microcomputer 115 outputs a fading start signal to the camera microcomputer 125 (column 7, lines 16-23). However, there is no description in Mogi that the lens microcomputer 115 controls to start supplying power to the microcomputer as specifically recited in the amended claims as discussed above. Furthermore, the camera microcomputer 125 of Mogi performs image fading control operation during the lens microcomputer 115 initializes the lens unit. However, there is no description in Mogi that the camera microcomputer 125 launches the operation system in response to the fading start signal. As Applicants understand it, performing image fading control operation of Mogi during the lens microcomputer 115 initializes the lens unit does not necessarily shorten a time required to prepare the video camera.

Accordingly, Applicant believe that the first and second system controllers of the present invention as recited in claim 1 are not taught by Mogi.

Hiroyuki discloses, among other things, extending a lens barrel. However, as seen in Fig. 11, the main CPU 201 performs an overall control of the camera as well as the lens motor driver

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210. Thus, the first and second system controllers of the present invention, as featured in, e.g., claim 1, are not taught by Hiroyuki.

Accordingly, each of independent claims 1, 23 and 38 as amended is believed neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of Mogi and Hiroyuki, either taken alone or in combination, for at least the reasons discussed above.

In paragraph seven (7) of the Final Office Action, claims 40-44 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,157,394 to Anderson et al. ("Anderson") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0151728 to Nishi ("Nishi") and in further view of Hiroyuki.

The Examiner indicates, *inter alia*, that Anderson discloses image sensing element, mechanical drive means, signal processing means, file system means and control means. Nishi is cited as disclosing a parallel processing of a lens adjustment to reduce the set up time of a projection exposure apparatus. The Examiner describes that "it would have been obvious ... to configure each of initializations ... to be run independently and simultaneously (no control signal from each other)." (Page 12 of the Final Office Action)

As indicated above, claim 40 has been amended in a similar manner to claim 1 reciting "control means for controlling the image sensing device with an operating system, mechanical drive means, in response to a turn-on operation of a power source, for extending a lens barrel having a lens from a collapsed position, for starting supplying power to said control means, and for operating independently of said control means... said mechanical drive means continues extending the lens barrel while said control means launches the operating system in response to a start of the power source."

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As Applicants understand it, none of the cited references (i.e., Anderson, Nishi and Hiroyuki) shows or suggests this aspect of the invention as featured in amended claim 40 as discussed above.

Accordingly, independent claim 40 is believed neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of Anderson, Nishi and Hiroyuki, either taken alone or in combination, for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 23, 38 and 40 under §103 (a) is respectfully requested.

Applicants have not individually addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because the independent claims from which they respectively depend are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Applicants, however, reserve the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary.

Applicants respectfully assert that the application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

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Docket No. 1232-4578**AUTHORIZATION**

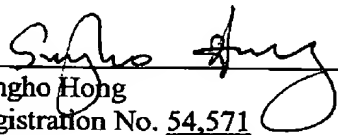
No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicants hereby petition the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-4578). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: March 20, 2006

By:


Sungho Hong
Registration No. 54,571

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281-2101
(212) 415-8700 (Telephone)
(212) 415-8701 (Facsimile)

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AUTHORIZATION

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicants hereby petition the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-4578). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

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New York, NY 10281-2101
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(212) 415-8701 (Facsimile)